

Riparian Areas

The BLM uses sound management practices to improve around 50,000 acres of riparian habitat in Colorado. Rangeland management specialists provide alternative sources of water in upland areas to draw livestock away from streams, build riparian pastures, and use vegetation treatments to increase the amount of upland forage. In some instances, recreation specialists close roads, campgrounds, and trails in riparian areas to relocate them to less fragile upland sites.

Recreation

BLM lands in Colorado offer extraordinary recreational opportunities ranging from hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, kayaking, and backpacking to mountain biking, four-wheeling, wildlife viewing, and photography.

More than one-fourth of BLM lands in Colorado are managed specifically for recreation and tourism. BLM Colorado manages recreation for NLCS units, rivers, cultural heritage attractions, off-highway vehicle riding areas, scenic byways, watchable wildlife areas, and



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places to hunt and fish. Other recreation opportunities include heritage tourism, sightseeing, rock climbing, spelunking, boating, mountain climbing, OHV driving, skiing, and picnicking.

Wild Horses

BLM Colorado manages four wild horse herd management areas: Piceance/East Douglas, Little Book Cliffs, Sandwash Basin, and Spring Creek Basin. (About 150 wild horses and burros are adopted each year.) BLM Colorado has a successful horse training partnership with the Colorado Department of Corrections, known as the Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program. Inmates undergo both classroom and on-the-job training through an accredited college curriculum before training select mustangs for adoption. Since the inception of the program, more than 3,000 inmates have participated. They have gentled or trained more than 5,000 horses gathered from western rangelands.

Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fire threats grow each year due, in part, to past land management practices



BLM Photo

and aggressive fire suppression. BLM priorities include ensuring public and firefighter safety, protecting property and natural resources, and reducing hazardous fuels. Since 2002, BLM Colorado has focused its fuels reduction efforts on areas near communities known as the Wildland Urban Interface. BLM Colorado manages wildland fire through interagency efforts that include federal, state, county, and local firefighting units.

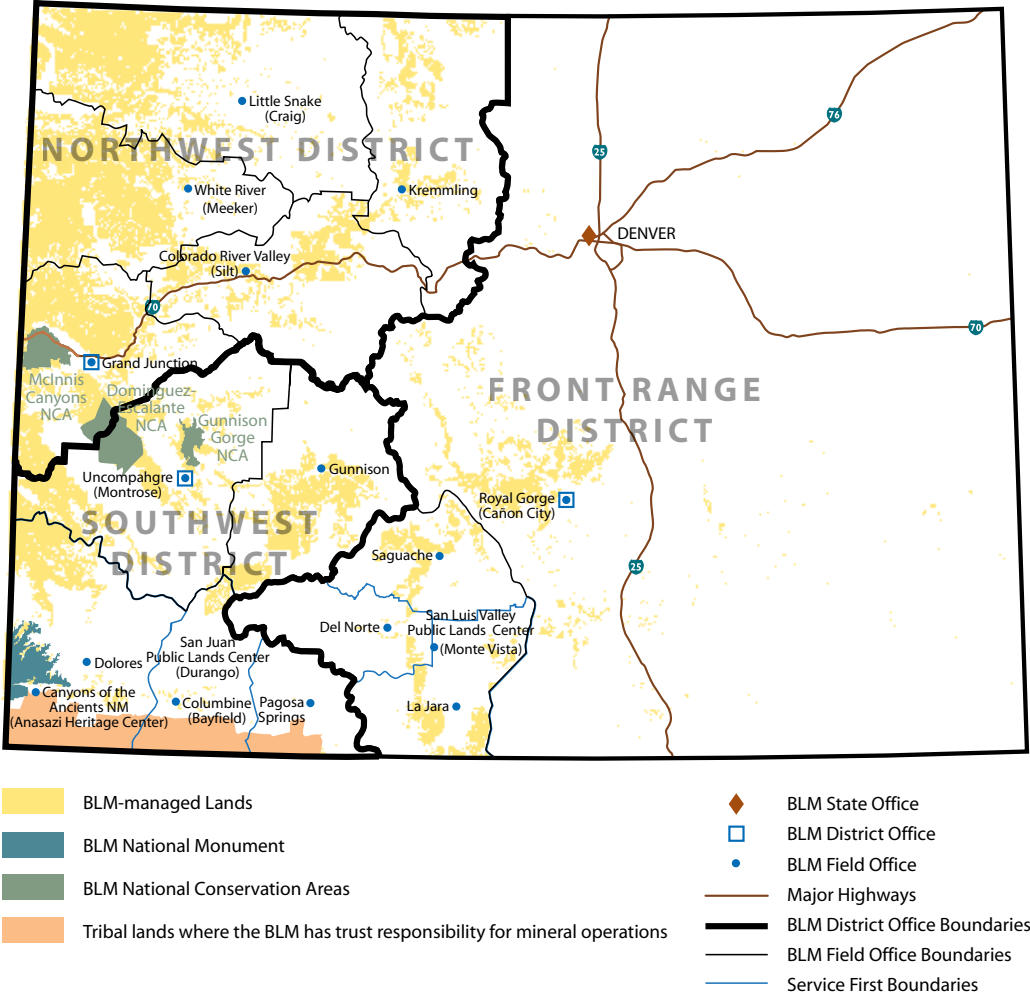
Service First

Under a unique cooperative venture called Service First, several local U.S. Forest Service and BLM offices have combined resources to help meet the management demands of public lands and forests, and better serve the public. The agencies also collaborate to effectively manage interfacing and interdependent land resources. This ongoing approach combines the best of each agency, and capitalizes on each agency’s public land management practices. Service First offices throughout Colorado are sharing offices, employees, equipment, vehicles, and supplies; offering land use permits; and have consolidated into six regional fire dispatch centers.



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BLM COLORADO OFFICES



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Colorado

Serving the People through Stewardship of the Lands

STEWARDSHIP

In Colorado, the BLM oversees 8.3 million acres of public lands, along with 27 million acres of mineral (subsurface) estate. Much of this land is concentrated in the western portion of the state. BLM lands in Colorado range from alpine tundra and colorful canyons, to mesas and rolling sage-covered hills. These lands are managed for multiple uses, including: recreation, mining, oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, wild horse and burro and livestock grazing.

PUBLIC LAND USE

Public lands are yours to use and enjoy. The mix of allowed uses depends on an area's particular resources, Resource Management Plans, public input, and federal laws and mandates. On BLM Colorado's public lands you can:



- Camp, fish, hunt, hike, bike, raft, rock climb, sightsee, and enjoy other recreational uses.
- Graze livestock, file a mining claim, or drill for oil or natural gas.
- Cut firewood, as well as your Christmas tree.
- Visit a museum or an actual pueblo to learn about the Anasazi – the “Ancient Ones.”

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The BLM collects revenues from a variety of sources including: grazing fees, recreation permit and use fees, sales of land and natural resources, mining claim holding fees, mineral royalties and rents, and other miscellaneous receipts. These revenues are disbursed in several ways. Some pay for the management of the lands; some are reserved for future appropriations; some go to the U.S. Treasury; and some are paid to the states where BLM lands are located. Since 1976, the BLM has contributed more than \$1 billion to local governments in payments in lieu of taxes.

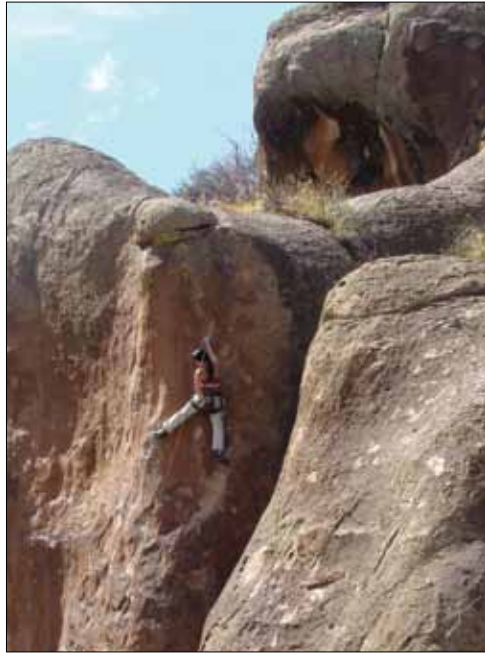


The economic health of Colorado communities is supported by ranching, mining, recreation and tourism associated with public lands. The mineral extraction industry that leases mineral rights on BLM-managed lands generates jobs that boost Colorado's employment and economic health. Increasingly, public lands are also valued for recreational opportunities, cultural resources, and vast open spaces.

COLORADO'S PUBLIC LANDS ARE IMPORTANT

Colorado's public lands are essential for healthy ecosystems and communities in the Centennial State. As Colorado's population grows, BLM public lands face new challenges, ranging from more recreational use to a greater emphasis on managing public lands for open space.

These sometimes conflicting demands on public lands emphasize the importance of the BLM's stewardship of Colorado's hills, valleys, canyons, and mountain



peaks. BLM lands also provide minerals, forage, forest products, and other goods for the entire nation. Coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, solar, wind, and geothermal energy resources are essential to the rural communities of Colorado, as well as urban population centers.

Now, more than ever, creative and cooperative management is vital to the health and well-being of our country's lands.

Planning for Multiple Use

The BLM manages the public's land and mineral estate through RMPs, in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. These plans are prepared with public input and environmental analysis. The National Environmental Policy Act directs the BLM to analyze social and environmental consequences of actions that affect public lands.



RMPs detail acceptable activities on public lands. For example, an RMP provides the basis for determining whether an area is open for oil and natural gas exploration and development, and under what conditions. Or, an RMP may make recreation the primary use of a given area, restricting other activities that might interfere with the public's enjoyment of their lands.

Energy Development

Colorado's federal lands have a long history of significant contributions to the production of energy/non-energy minerals. Nationally, Colorado ranks as the eleventh largest oil producer and sixth largest natural gas producer.

In Colorado, oil from federal lands accounts for 20 percent of the total oil produced statewide; natural gas from federal lands equates to 11 percent of the total amount produced statewide.



Additionally, more than 80 percent of Colorado's coal production comes from federal leases. Colorado ranks second in the nation behind Wyoming in federal coal production.

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, 10 percent of new oil and natural gas wells in Colorado involved public lands and minerals.

Renewable energy projects on BLM-managed lands cover wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, as well as transmission facilities to deliver power. BLM Colorado recently established a Renewable Energy Team to help expedite processing for renewable energy project applications.

BLM Colorado produces thousands of tons of biomass annually through various forestry, fuel hazard reduction, and range improvement projects. Our most active renewable biomass programs are: providing wood chips to Black Hills Power

in Cañon City, Colo., providing dead and dying Mountain Pine Beetle-infested trees to contractors who supply pellet plants in northwest Colorado, and providing thousands of cords of firewood for home and business heating throughout western Colorado.

In recent years, technological advances have enabled energy producers to operate on public lands in ways that are more environmentally friendly than ever before.

Conservation

Besides providing recreational opportunities, BLM lands in Colorado serve as important areas for conservation programs, including providing habitat for threatened or endangered animal and plant species.

The BLM's National Landscape Conservation System highlights some of the West's most spectacular public lands. These areas are congressionally or presidentially designated to conserve,



protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological, and scientific values. NLCS lands include: national monuments, national conservation areas, national scenic and historic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas. Colorado is home to 66 NLCS areas encompassing nearly 1.2 million acres — one-eighth of all the BLM land in the state.

Cultural Resources

The BLM Colorado cultural resources program manages archaeological and historical sites. Sites include prehistoric camps, Fremont rock art, Ancestral Puebloan masonry pueblos, Ute wickiups, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and historic mines and ranches. The Anasazi Heritage Center, near the town of Dolores, is one of two BLM museums and holds about three million objects from the Southwest. It is also the visitor center for the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.



BLM Colorado Facts

RECREATION

- 1,204 miles of trails
- 111 camping sites, 59 picnicking sites, 54 boat ramps
- 582 miles of floatable rivers
- 4,300 miles of streams

NLCS UNITS

- 5 Wilderness Areas
- 54 Wilderness Study Areas
- 1 National Monument
- 3 National Conservation Areas
- 1 National Historic Trail
- 1 National Scenic Trail
- 1 Congressionally Designated Management Area

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

\$646,927 grazing fees generated in FY 2009

- \$72,406 of which went back to Colorado

\$468,230,708 in federal bonuses, royalties and rents for all minerals in FY 2009, including:

- \$418,729,259 for natural gas and oil
- \$49,166,753 million for coal
- 49 percent of which went to the State of Colorado

\$560,098 in revenue from recreation permits, fees and passes in FY 2009

- More than 5.5 million people visited BLM lands in Colorado in FY 2009
- Recreation on BLM Colorado lands helped support more than 400 recreational outfitter businesses in FY 2009
- Visitors to BLM public lands also contribute to neighboring communities through lodging, retail sales, real estate, gas, food, and outdoor gear purchases.

To learn more about the BLM in Colorado, go to our website at www.blm.gov/co

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